

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1949

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*Chairman of the Council* : Councillor H. J. PRICE, J.P.

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Chairman* : Councillor S. MAYCOCK, J.P.

*Councillors* : F. A. BATES, J.P., R. E. FARWELL, W. H. GURNEY

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health* :

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.A. & C. COL.I.M.S. (RETD.)  
(*The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B. and Buckingham R.D.C., Area M.O. for North Bucks and Divisional School M.O. for the North Bucks Division and Buckingham and Winslow District.*)

## SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. F. SMITHIE, M.I.MUN.E., M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.



## To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Bletchley

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Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1949.

The health of the District for the year under review has been satisfactory.

The Death Rate shows a slight increase over last year. The increase has been due to those diseases associated with advancing years. It is quite satisfactory, being lower than the rate for the County and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points lower than the rate for England and Wales.

The Birth Rate shows a slight increase, being slightly more than that for the County and for England and Wales.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a most gratifying drop from 25.8 in 1948 to 12.4. It is approximately half of that for the County as a whole and one third that for England and Wales.

I should again like to thank your officers and staff for their willing co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



# SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS	1948	1949
Area (in acres) ... ..	4462	4462
Population ... ..	9165	10461*
Number of Inhabited Houses ... ..	2772	2923
Rateable Value (1st April) ... ..	£53219	£52812
Rate per £1 ... ..	21/-	24/-
Sum represented by 1d. Rate ... ..	£221/14/11	£220/1/-

## BIRTHS:

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	Males	79	76
					Females	72	80
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	Males	3	4
					Females	1	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	...					16.9	17.0
Birth rate per 1,000 Population—							
Bucks County	...	...	...			17.5	16.9
Birth rate per 1,000 Population—							
England and Wales		...	...			17.9	16.7
Still Births	...	...	...	...	Males	5	2
					Females	—	2

## DEATHS:

Males	43	45
Females	38	43

Death rate per 1,000 Population ... ..	8.8	9.3
Death rate per 1,000 Population—		
Bucks County ... ..	9.6	10.5
Death rate per 1,000 Population—		
England and Wales ... ..	10.8	11.7
Maternal Mortality ... ..	Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality — England and		
Wales ... ..	1.02	0.98

\* This includes 990 non-civilians

# INFANTILE MORTALITY :

	1948	1949
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births ... ..	25.8	12.4
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births Bucks County ...	26.8	22.5
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births England & Wales	34	32.0
Deaths from Measles... ..	0	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough ...	1	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	0	1

## PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

	1948			1949		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Influenza ... ..	0	0	0	1	1	2
Anterior Poliomyelitis ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	1	1	2	1	0	1
Other Tuberculosis ... ..	0	0	0	0	1	1
Cancer ... ..	12	2	14	11	4	15
Diabetes ... ..	0	0	0	1	0	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ... ..	3	7	10	3	3	6
Heart Disease ... ..	12	15	27	16	18	34
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	1	0	1	0	0	0
Bronchitis ... ..	2	2	4	1	4	5
Pneumonia ... ..	1	3	4	1	3	4
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	0	1	1	1	1	2
Digestive Disease ... ..	1	2	3	2	2	4
Nephritis ... ..	1	0	1	0	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia and Fever ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes ... ..	2	0	2	0	0	0
Violence ... ..	2	1	3	4	1	5
All Other Causes ... ..	4	3	7	3	4	7
Suicide ... ..						
Total ... ..	42	37	79	45	43	88

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### 1. LABORATORY SERVICES

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Oxford and Luton. Samples of Water and Sewage for chemical analysis had however to be sent to London.

#### 2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

These services have been administered by the County Council since July 5th, 1948. An Ambulance Station with two Ambulances and one Sitting Case Car has been established in the Town which has dealt satisfactorily with all general cases including accidents. For cases of infectious disease the Ambulance from Aylesbury Isolation Hospital was used.

#### 3. NURSING FACILITIES

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their very excellent and noble work.

#### 4. CLINICS

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare: This Clinic has been held weekly at the Welfare Clinic in Bletchley Road. The voluntary committee, District Nurses and Health Visitor attended each time and a doctor attended once a fortnight. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to the ladies of the voluntary committee who give so much of their spare time, ungrudgingly, to this work. The total number of children who attended during the year was 2,418.

(b) Chest Clinic: This clinic was organised during the year and is doing excellent work. It is a self-contained unit complete with X-ray apparatus, etc., and is under the personal supervision of the County Chest Physician. Sessions are held weekly.

(c) Physiotherapy Clinic: This clinic which is administered by the British Red Cross Society continues to do very good work. Unfortunately shortage of staff has at times hampered its work.

## 5. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals have served this area :

Infectious Diseases :

Aylesbury Isolation Hospital

Slade Hospital, Oxford.

Tuberculosis :

Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium.

General :

Northampton General Hospital

Bedford County Hospital

Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury

London Hospitals

Tindal House, Aylesbury

## 6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

This service, administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service, has done very good work since its inception. Approximately 93 cases were assisted during the year.

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### A. WATER

##### (a) Quality

Bacteriological and chemical analysis have shown that a high standard of purity has been maintained as the undermentioned results will show :

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

(i) Nature of sample — Tap, Council Offices, Bletchley.

Plate Count Yeastrel Agar 3 days 22° C. aerobically 10 per ml.

Plate Count Yeastrel Agar 2 days 37° C. aerobically 14 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37° C. ... Nil per 100 ml.

Approximate proportions of faecal and non-faecal coli: (a) Faecal coli ... Nil per cent

(ii) Nature of sample — Raw Water No. 2 Borehole — before treatment.

Probable number of coliform bacilli MacConkey 2 days 37° C. ... Nil per 100 ml.

Remarks: Satisfactory.

(iii) Nature of Sample — Raw Water No. 3 Borehole — before treatment.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37° C. ... 13 per 100 ml.

Approximate proportions of faecal and non-faecal coli:

(a) Faecal coli ... Nil per cent

(b) Non-Faecal coli ... 100 per cent



## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

(iv) Nature of sample — Household tap, Wilton Avenue.

Analysis :						Parts per 100,000
Suspended Solids	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Dissolved Solids	...	...	...	...	...	18.0
Chloride (as $\text{Cl}_2$ )	...	...	...	...	...	1.45
Nitrate (as $\text{N}_2$ )	...	...	...	...	...	0.14
Nitrite	...	...	...	...	...	Very faint trace
Oxygen consumed from Permanganate (4 hrs. at 80° F.)	...	...	...	...	...	0.016(N/80)
pH Value	...	...	...	...	...	6.9
Free $\text{CO}_2$	...	...	...	...	...	0.95
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.0024
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.0036
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	4.57
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	3.38
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	7.95
Iron	...	...	...	...	...	0.002

During the year Borehole No. 3 was completed and put into service, but the quantity of water which could be pumped from this source was affected by its proximity to Borehole No. 2 and it was found necessary to continue to acquire water from Birchmoor Water Supply and Sewerage Committee in order to meet the requirements of the town.

During the latter part of the year application was made to the Ministry of Health for a Licence to sink two additional Boreholes, and a Compulsory Purchase Order was made and submitted to the Minister for his approval, to authorise the Compulsory Purchase of lands to the west of the Council's present workings. Not until these are approved and the new boreholes sunk and put into commission will a really assured water supply for the town be available.

Only six houses within the Urban District are not connected to the mains.

## B. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

1949 saw the completion of the new sewer and rising main to replace the Ejectors in Manor Road, but due to the delay in delivery of the pumping plant a temporary pump had to be installed and has worked very well.

The Sewerage Disposal Works at Simpson became more seriously overloaded as the year progressed and has now reached the point when it becomes imperative that a new works should be built.

The Old Bletchley Disposal Works has continued to work satisfactorily.

## C. RIVERS AND STREAMS

No stagnation or obstructions occurred in the streams within the area during the year under review.

## D. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Practically 100 per cent of the houses in the district are now on the water carriage system.

## E. PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection of Household refuse has continued fairly satisfactorily during the year, but the time is fast approaching when an additional vehicle will be required.

The Incinerator at North Street has continued to work to full capacity but it is not able to deal with all the refuse and some 20 per cent has had to be tipped. The question of additional alternative means of Refuse Disposal is one that will require attention in the near future.

## F. SHOPS

The need for lavatory accommodation at two cafes has not yet been met.

## G. CAMPING SITES

No sites registered.

## H. SMOKE ABATEMENT

The work on the erection of the new factory for Messrs. Joseph Tetley & Co., Ltd., on Denbigh Road has progressed well and we should soon be in a position to end the trouble emanating from their Coffee Plant in Osborne Street.

## I. SWIMMING BATHS

The Swimming Pool at the Grange has not been available to the public, and the provision of a Public Swimming Bath has again become one of the most urgent amenities required in the town.

## J. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Action has been taken in three cases for the eradication of bed bugs during the year.

### SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT (J. F. Smithie) INSPECTIONS MADE

Water	...	...	239	Drainage	...	...	287
Bakehouses	...	...	7	Buildings	...	...	525
Factories	...	...	20	Destructor	...	...	50
Food Premises	...	...	52	Smoke	...	...	3
Housing	...	...	292	Slaughterhouses	...	...	198
Sewerage	...	...	196				
Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1819
Houses and Clothing Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	23

## SECTION D

### HOUSING

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :

1.	(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	55
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	92
	(ii) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head(i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	55
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	55
	(iii)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	0
	(iv)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	2
2.		Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :	
		Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their officers ... ..	55
3.		Action under Statutory Powers during the year...	0
4.		HOUSING ACT, 1936 : Part IV. OVERCROWDING	
	(i) (a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	0
	(b)	Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	0
	(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	0
	(ii)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	0
	(iii) (a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	0
	(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	0
	(iv)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again been overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ..	0
	(v)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... ..	0

One hundred and forty three new Council Houses have been completed in 1949 and work on 118 others was in progress at the end of the year.

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### (a) Milk Supply

The register contains 34 farms and 30 retailers of milk.

#### (b) Meat

The Sanitary Inspector continued his duties as meat inspector and has submitted the following figures :

#### CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	971	Nil	447	2782	57
Number inspected ...	971	Nil	447	2782	57
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	Nil	3	1	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	331	Nil	2	22	30
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	34.192%	Nil	1.119%	0.827%	56.140%

#### *Tuberculosis Only*

Whole carcasses condemned	8	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	91	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	10.196%	Nil	0.223%	Nil	5.263%

## SECTION F

### FACTORIES ACT

The Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 has been completed and copies forwarded to the relevant authorities.

## SECTION G

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### 1. GENERAL

During the year there was an increase in the incidence of Measles and Scarlet Fever but a most satisfactory drop in the case of Whooping Cough.

The Scarlet Fever cases were mainly the result of a very mild epidemic in the Infants' School towards the end of the year.

#### 2. TUBERCULOSIS

Eleven cases were notified during the year of which ten were pulmonary and one non-pulmonary.

Some of these cases were transfers into the District.

#### 3. CANCER

This disease continues to take its toll. There were fifteen deaths during the year.

#### 4. NOTIFICATIONS

Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	19
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	188
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	27

D. H. WALDRON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

